

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti- John Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. If Sinclair insists on airing this documentary, they, as public servants, must follow it up with a pro-John Kerry documentary. Both must be shown in equal quality time slots, and with equal promotion. Anything less smacks of electioneering. Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.